HEALTHY NEWSWORKS
Mission

Healthy NewsWorks (HNW) empowers elementary and middle school students to become researchers, writers, critical thinkers, and confident communicators who advance health understanding and literacy through their factual publications and digital media.
Student journalists learn how:

• To be reporters
• To identify news
• To produce articles
• To gather information about health-related topics
• To produce newspapers and books and spread health information
HNW’s unique approach

HNW addresses two significant areas affecting children:

- **Literacy**
- **Health**

Children need to acquire strong writing, listening, and communication skills to understand and consume health information throughout their lives.
HNW’s Unique Approach

School-based initiatives:

**Reader classrooms**
- Nonfiction reading enrichment on health
- Special lessons

**Reporter Classrooms**
- Books
- Health education
- Newspapers

**Hearty Kids**
- Nutrition and exercise
- Special newspaper section
Reporter Classroom

- At least one classroom per school
- Offered in grades 3-8
- Partnership between a principal, a teacher, and HNW
- Students learn reporting skills, conduct health research activities, and produce on average three newspapers per school year

Sample student newspaper

**Whitmore HEALY Reporter**

Survey asks what makes bones stronger

Whitehouse students favor soccer

Milk is a healthy drink after exercise

Nutrition

Milk provides great bone

- How many students drink milk?
- How many students ride bikes?
- How many students work out?

Reported by: [Name]

Date: [Date]
Types of Lessons

Classroom-based

- Journalism basics, research, activity, and writing time
- Purpose-driven focus on health

Activity/Experience-based

- Press conferences
- Reporting field trips
- Taste tests
- Research
Authentic Writing

Multidisciplinary approach

- Health knowledge
- Communication skills
- Collaboration & creativity
- Research strategies & technology literacy
- Text-dependent analysis & critical thinking

Authentic writing
Any classroom can be a Reader Classroom

- Available to grades K-8
- HNW prints enough copies for every student in the school
- Reader Classroom teachers have access to lessons and activities to help them use the student-produced health newspapers, books, and videos in their classroom
Hearty Kids

- Brings the Reporter Classroom experience to grades K-2
- Promotes heart health
- Students collaborate to produce a “junior” section of the school’s health newspaper
Special Lessons

- Stand-alone lessons offered to other classrooms in the school
- Led by HNW staff

Topics include:
- Nutrition
- Identifying trustworthy news sources
- Writing letters to the editor
- Interviewing skills
• Student reporters participate in producing the annual *Leading Healthy Change In Our Communities* book
• Books feature profiles of Philadelphia-area leaders
Future: Blended Learning

- Students and teachers can access new “Health Beat” portal for online reporting activities.
- Blended approach will deepen our program impact in our current schools and student reporters and increase our capacity to reach many more children in the Philadelphia region.
HNW’s Community Impact

Student reporters identify, research, and present reliable health and safety information in multimedia formats.

Community members support our students with interviews and expertise and partner with us to reach more children.

Teachers use student-produced publications and other media in the classroom to spread health awareness.

Families read and view student media and use the information to create healthier communities.
Healthy NewsWorks has ....

• Helped more than 3,000 schoolchildren in 33 schools publish more than 500 health newspapers.
• Received a 2018 GlaxoSmithKline Impact Award, in recognition of its contribution to building a healthier Philadelphia.
• Received the 2016 Organizational Public Health Recognition Award from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.
Our reporters say it best!

• “I know this is meaningful to me because I never thought I would accomplish something so big.” —Fifth grader

• “I learned new ways to improve my writing. …I learned to cite a source whenever using information or a quote from a website to avoid plagiarism.” —Sixth grader

• “I got to learn how to be healthy and to teach other people how to stay healthy.” —Third grader